



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK
AUGUST 3-9, 2008

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS farmers markets are important nationwide outlets for agricultural producers, providing them with increased marketing opportunities; and

WHEREAS more than 4,400 farmers markets across the country offer consumers farm-fresh, affordable, convenient, and healthful products such as fruits, vegetables, cheeses, herbs, fish, flowers, baked goods, meat, and much more; and

WHEREAS farmers markets serve as integral links among urban, suburban, and rural communities, affording farmers and consumers the opportunity to interact; and

WHEREAS the popularity of farmers markets continues to rise as more and more consumers discover the joys of shopping for unique ingredients sold directly from the farm as well as the pleasure of buying familiar products in their freshest possible state; and

WHEREAS farmers markets support local anti-hunger initiatives through donations of unsold food and food products to programs that feed needy individuals and families; and

WHEREAS our Nation's farmers, while providing for our needs, are among the best stewards of our land; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture strongly supports and promotes the development, operation, and expansion of farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer marketing activities for agricultural producers;

NOW, THEREFORE, to further awareness of farmers markets and of the contributions farmers make to daily life in America, I, Edward T. Schafer, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim the week of August 3-9, 2008, as National Farmers Market Week. I encourage the people of the United States to celebrate the benefits of farmers markets and the bountiful production of our Nation's farmers with appropriate observances and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of July 2008, the two-hundred thirty-third year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Schafer".

EDWARD T. SCHAFER
Secretary